

The Vanderhoof House
Weasel Brook Park
Clifton, Passaic County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
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Owner: Passaic County Park Commission

Date of Erection: About 1720 for east end of
main house - the oldest section

Architect:

Builder: Probably Albert Vanderroof

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sandstone

Exterior walls - sandstone,
addition on north elevation
and main gables frame con-
struction

Interior walls - plaster

Roof - Gable, wood shingled

Historical Data:

This house was built by Gilbert Vanderroof (so spelled in Essex County records) on ground given to him by his father-in-law John E. Vreeland, whose daughter Margretta he married. The property was sold to Garret Gerritse by Vanderroof on May 1, 1736. Ralph Doremus bought the property from Peter Gerritse, son or grandson of Garret in 1805. Sophia Westervelt acquired title from Ralph Doremus in 1825. It remained

in the Westervelt family until 1905. Several transfers are recorded between that date and 1914 when Cent Maat became the owner. The Passaic County Park Commission acquired title in 1913 from Cent Maat, who in the mean time had become Cent Martin.

Garret Gerritse was a man of prominence in the Weasel district. His tombstone is in the old first cemetery in Passaic and bears the inscription "January 1, 1737, G. G. over Leden". He died less than a year after he acquired the property from Gilbert Vanderroof. Garret owned about thirteen hundred feet of land fronting on the present Dundee Lake extending back to the mountain. It would appear from Scott's History that the present house was not the homestead of Garret. The property contained a saw mill which was one of the earliest in this section and was still in operation during the ownership of Ralph Doremus.

The east end of the main part of the house seems to be the earliest; then the west end of the main part. The wing was apparently added at a later date. The house was considerably changed during the nineteenth century. It has since been carefully restored by the Passaic County Park Commission.

Bibliography:

A search of Essex and Passaic County records at Newark and Paterson by Frank P. Caulfield, Essex County Office

Scott, W. W. History of Passaic and Its Environs 3 Volumes New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1922

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